

## Minutes of the July 22, 2010 Animal Control Commission

The Animal Control Commission met on Thursday July 22, 2010 in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members present: Laura Bartrom, Sarah Davis, Dr. Tom Shutes, Lt. Chris Weaver, LPD, and Melissa Wilkes, Legal Counsel

The Commission met in a special session due to appeals of tickets by Shautesy Boyce, 2200 Powderhouse Lane and a request from Animal Control to have dogs euthanized due to alleged violation of a vicious animal agreement.

Ms. Bartrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Melissa Wilkes, Legal Counsel, stated the reason for the meeting was to hear evidence and testimony regarding the dogs Miko and Danger owned by Shautesy Boyce, 2200 Powder House Lane, so the Animal Control Commission can make a decision on if the dogs should be euthanized due to multiple issues with the animals

Ms. Wilkes swore in Josh Klumpe, Animal Control Officer who gave testimony regarding several incidents involving the two dogs, Miko and Danger.

Ms. Wilkes swore in Randy Hale, Animal Control Supervisor who gave testimony regarding a list of calls regarding the animals that he prepared dating back to 2007 and Ms. Wilkes labeled this list as Exhibit 1. Office Hale then gave a brief explanation of incidents on the list.

Ms. Wilkes swore in Michelle Warren, Executive Director of Almost Home Shelter who gave testimony regarding the behavior of the two dogs and also the cost of care for the animals. Ms. Warren also stated the charges to date for the care of the dogs are \$890 (eight hundred ninety dollars).

Ms Wilkes swore in Theresa Gregory, Powderhouse Lane, who gave testimony regarding an incident in which her dog was attacked by the two dogs while located in her backyard on May 27<sup>th</sup> and the injuries and care her animal was given. Ms. Wilkes presented photos taken by Mrs. Gregory of her dog's injuries and the photos were labeled, exhibit 2.

Ms. Wilkes swore in Amber Drerup, who gave testimony about an injury her son David received after being attacked by one of the dogs owned by Mr. Boyce. Ms. Wilkes presented photos of the injury and labeled them exhibit 3.

Ms. Wilkes swore in Michael Bryant, Owner, Let's Talk Dogs, LLC, who gave testimony regarding the evaluation he did on the dogs Danger and Miko, and gave his opinion on the dogs' behavior and ability to retrain.

Ms. Wilkes swore in Shaun Boyce who gave testimony about the incidents involving his dogs, Danger and Miko.

Lt. Chris Weaver, LPD, spoke regarding the issue of public safety and the concern for citizens with the increased issue of running at large and aggression shown by the two dogs.

Brian Kramer, Walker Ct, expressed concern for safety of animals in the neighborhood, because if the two dogs.

Several neighbors and citizens spoke in opposition of the dogs and in support of the dogs.

Mr. Boyce stated he is moving out of the city limits, and would like to work with Mr. Bryant to be a better dog owner and asked the Commission to allow his dogs to live with his friends, who are willing to build a fence so the dogs will be contained.

Mr. Bryant offered his services to find a suitable facility to house the dogs while he worked with them to retrain, to see if the dogs can be adopted, Mr. Bryant did not have a commitment from the Crystal Creek Facility, but felt confident that he could work out an arrangement with them.

Dr. Shutes questioned the time frame in which Mr. Bryant felt he could be finished with retraining and if he would take willing to take responsibility for the dogs until they are retrained if able. Mr. Bryant stated her will commit to however long it takes to get the job done and will assume responsibility for the dogs.

Ms. Warren stated Almost Home is willing to keep the dogs a few more days until arrangements are made, but they do expect to be compensated for the care and boarding of these two dogs. But she would request Mr. Bryant start working with the dogs right away, as it is difficult for any other staff to work with the dogs.

After deliberation the Commission made the following recommendations.

- Mr. Boyce not be allowed to retain ownership of the two dogs due to public safety risks
- Mr. Boyce can relinquish ownership of dogs to Almost Home for retraining efforts with Mr. Bryant or they will be euthanized.
- Mr. Boyce will still be financially responsible for all costs that have occurred regarding for the care of the dogs
- If dogs are not relocated to a suitable rehab facility within one week, the Commission recommends the Almost Home Humane Society euthanize these dogs per there policy.

Dr. Shutes asked for Mr. Boyce to give the Commission his response to the recommendations.

Mr. Boyce agreed to relinquish ownership of the dogs.

Ms. Warren agreed to accept the recommendation of the Commission

Mr. Bryant agreed to take ownership of the dogs and work to find suitable housing to start a retraining program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Sue Scott

Complete audio available in the City Clerks Office upon request or [www.lafayette.in.gov](http://www.lafayette.in.gov)